

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Baptist school building bridges in Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan (BP) — When Paul and Virginia Smith, Southern Baptist representatives in Jordan, looked out over the 29 small faces that made up the first class at Amman Baptist School, they couldn't help but wonder if this was really what God had planned.

It was the fall of 1974, eight years since Southern Baptist workers in Jordan had purchased the land for the school. In those eight years, God had dealt one by one with a multitude of problems they had faced on their way to starting the school. They felt sure God wanted them to reach out to Jordanians in Amman through a Baptist school.

After the school opened, it took more than a year for Baptists to see much evidence that God was at work toward that goal. What was the turning point? When Jordan's Princess Bessma and her brother, Prince Hassan, enrolled their children in the school, the community followed suit. By the time the school marked its fifth anniversary, 260 students were enrolled.

This year Jordanian Baptists celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Amman Baptist School with a week of special events highlighting the school's unique place in Amman, Jordan's capital. The celebration included an open house, student exhibits, and an alumni gathering.



HEART TO HEART — Miriam Fritz, a Southern Baptist who teaches science at Amman Baptist School in Jordan, receives a traditional kiss on the cheek from one of her pupils. In its 25 years of ministry, the school has built bridges of understanding and shared the gospel with Jordanians. (BP photo by Tobin Perry)

The school, operated by the Jordanian Baptist Convention, is one of two Baptist schools in Jordan. The other is located in the town of Ajloun.

When the Amman Baptist School opened, it was Southern Baptist workers' first attempt to reach non-Christian Jordanians in Amman with Christ's love. Until that point, Baptist work in the city had been limited mainly to cultural Christians.

"The doors were wide

open," said Smith, now retired and living in Oklahoma. "We had a wonderful opportunity to go into Jordanian homes, into the king's palace and the prince's palace and literally say why [we] were here — because of God's concern for the people and the love of Jesus."

In keeping with the organizers' original intentions, the school has become a strong Christian influence in Amman. Former students talk openly about the spiritual lessons they learned at the school.

"When the students graduate and talk about the school,

you can feel that they received a special spiritual, loving atmosphere [there]," said Mae Halteh, the school's principal from 1984-97. "It's like a big family."

Few Christian institutions in the Middle East have kept a high public profile like the Amman Baptist School. Several members of the royal family attended the school, including one of the late King Hussein's daughters. After touring the institution in 1975, King Hussein financed construction of the wall that now surrounds the school. He also attended a chapel service there.

In the early 1990s, the Jordan Baptist Convention took over the deed to the land and assumed control of the school. Since its second year of operation, the school has been self-supporting. Southern Baptists serve

there as teachers.

One of the school's most important Christian influences is the kindergarten, where children regardless of religious background gather to sing Christian songs and listen to someone read from the Bible.

"Arab parents are so involved in their children's lives, and they are very involved in their education," added Leah Chambers of Morristown, Tenn., a Southern Baptist teacher at the school.

"If you are going to love them, you love their children," she said.

### Resources to be combined

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Week of Prayer for International Missions in November and the International Mission Study have combined forces. Traditionally, the annual events were observed separately. Starting this year, the two emphases will be combined into the week traditionally set aside for the Week of Prayer.

Also beginning this year, the traditional boxed mission study will be eliminated. Free resources for the mission study will be found in the November editions of "The Commission" magazine, "On Mission with God" videos and mobilization fliers. WMU and North American Mission Board age-level curriculum for November will support the study, and WMU has produced age-level studies and special church guides for the emphasis week.

The Week of Prayer Guide will continue the same theme. Church members will pray during the week for eight different people groups or population segments ranging from the Bengalis of India to secular atheists in Russia.

To order products for the International Mission Study, call the IMB Resource Center at (800) 866-3621. To purchase WMU's study guides, call WMU customer services at (800) 968-7301. Prayer guides for Week of Prayer for International Missions will be available Sept. 1 from WMU.

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### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

An Oklahoma husband and wife, both ordained to the ministry, are turned down for appointment as missionaries by a trustee committee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Greg and Katrina Pennington of Ardmore were both ordained by Northwest Church over the objections of Enon Association.

#### 20 years ago

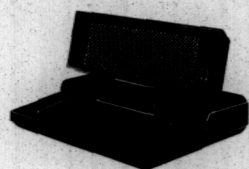
Clarke College's board of trustees names A. C. Johnson as the 17th president of the Newton-based junior college. Johnson came to Clarke in 1977 as chairperson of the division of social science and business, and instructor in history and government. Johnson is a native of Newton.

#### 50 years ago

The University of Shanghai and Soochow Baptist school properties are seized by Chinese Communist authorities, according to M. Theron Rankin, secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The takeover was anticipated and missionaries are staying with the school.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# The secret messages of our culture

For the better part of the past 40 years, teenagers have taken great delight in being able to decode the secret messages hidden in pop music. Parents who are not familiar with teen culture and jargon may find the lyrics unfathomable, but be assured there are messages in the music.

From the earliest days of rock 'n roll when teens understood that songs like "Rock Around the Clock" had a sexual meaning, to the no-limits 60s where "White Rabbit" and "Purple Haze" extolled the virtues of drug-induced catatonia, to today's more out-in-the-open sexuality and violence, much of pop music has utilized these secret messages to transmit cultural ideas and promote certain behaviors that mainstream society would find objectionable.

The disturbing fact behind this conduct is that as the teens of an era move into adulthood, they often take these radical messages with them into their generation's mainstream society. Once there, the messages aren't so radical.

No reasonable person could argue against the fact that pop music was a major catalyst for the so-called sexual revolution, which is no longer a revolution but an established part of modern American society.

The same can be said of our present attitudes toward drugs and violence, attitudes which have been seeded in pop music for many years. Pop music may not be solely responsible for the sorry state of American society, but it has certainly assumed a prominent role in acculturating us to perverse behavior.

It would seem that corporations have begun to pick up on this technique in a big way. Consider the observations in an article entitled, "Cracking the Gay Market Code; How Marketers Plant Subtle Symbols in Ads," by Ronald Alsop in the June 29 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*:

*The symbolism probably flies by most people, but to a gay man or woman the new Subaru ad speaks volumes.*

On billboards and buses, Subaru models have bumper stickers showing a blue-and-yellow equal-sign, the logo of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay advocacy group. In ads with the slogan — "Different Drivers. Different Roads. One Car" — the Subaru vehicles also have vanity plates, XENA LVR and P-TOWNIE. (Translation: The TV show "Xena: Warrior Princess" has a large lesbian following; P-TOWNIE refers to Provincetown, a gay mecca on Cape Cod.)

"It's sort of like our little secret," says Tim Bennett, marketing-services manager at Subaru of America, Inc. "It's clever and not offensive, and if you're in-the-know, you chuckle."

The *Journal* article lists other corporate sponsors of subtle homosexual advertising as Volkswagen, IBM, American Express, Allstate, Starbucks, Waterford Wedgwood, Levi Strauss, Anheuser-Busch, Seagram (alcohol), Naya (bottled water), and Parliament (cigarettes).

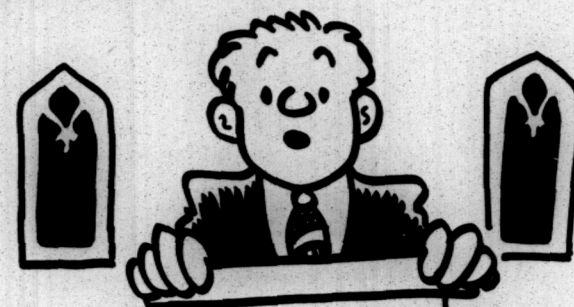
Alsop also details pink triangles (a symbol of the homosexual movement) in ads for Coors Light and Borders bookstores, AIDS ribbons on men's underpants in a Benetton ad, a Visa affinity card with a rainbow (another symbol of the homosexual movement), and a rainbow-colored glass of Miller Lite beer.

There's the Bud Light bottle dressed in studded leather to promote San Francisco's sadomasochistic Folsom Street Fair, and the nubile young man holding a six-pack of Bud Light with the words "Nice package" printed over his jeans.

Maybe all this information was a revelation to you, as it was to this writer. Or, again and in another way, it appears sin is being forced before our eyes and thrust down our throats. Is our society destined to always define wrong as right and right as wrong — and to proudly do so?

That would seem to be the case, in which

"PERSONALLY, I DON'T THINK  
THE LORD IS SO CONCERNED  
WITH ANSWERING ALL OUR  
QUESTIONS...."



"AS HE IS IN QUESTIONING  
ALL OUR ANSWERS!"



case we must double and redouble our efforts to bring this dark and lost world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ before he returns.

Of course, we can choose not to purchase products that offend our beliefs. We can also avoid the corporations that flaunt our deeply-held values, but only Jesus can change lives. We must not forget that fact.

Until we accomplish our primary mission of reaching out to every lost person on Earth with the Gospel message, we're going to continue to experience these culture shocks.

Let's pray without ceasing for this depraved world, and then let's put feet to our prayers. In light of what our Savior sacrificed for us, we can do no less.

## GUEST OPINION:



*Hope is still  
in sight!*

By Doug Bain, chairman  
Bible Division, Blue Mountain College

Several years back *The Baptist Record* published a letter as a "guest editorial" entitled "New Hope on the Horizon." The letter reported that some within the Southern Baptist Convention seem to have missed the vision and insight about being part of Christian community in the historic Baptist pattern.

A new generation, however, is on the rise, providing hope that at the Baptist vision has not faded or been eradicated.

This semester's work in Church History at Blue Mountain College has affirmed yet again that there is still hope on the horizon. There are some "bright lights" that have the understanding not just of Baptist doctrinal truths but of the distinctive Baptist way of being and doing. They sense that Truth is more than truths, that "the classic Baptist heritage is personal truth," to use the title of a recent publication.

A ministerial student tells that "Southern Baptists are a group of believers in Jesus Christ distinguishable from every other Christian denomination. Although believer's baptism by immersion and commu-

nion are important ordinances for Southern Baptists, what sets them apart is their polity. Stemming from the belief of the priesthood of all believers is the ideal of soul competency in religion. This makes for Southern Baptists' being independent and democratic and self-governing. Southern Baptists do however see the importance of voluntary cooperation. They are a non-coercive and non-creedal people. A creed doesn't shape Southern Baptists, but Southern Baptists have formulated a number of confessions that demonstrate the consensus beliefs of the group."

Even a non-Baptist ministerial student understands that "Southern Baptists are an independent people who express

their independence through voluntary cooperation. A good model for this is the cooperative program... There are many specific doctrines and beliefs that distinguish Baptists. Ideally, the goal is to have an uncompromising belief in the Word of God, but to be tolerant and loving toward others with different viewpoints and theologies."

Another ministerial student writes that "...Southern Baptists do not overwhelm others with pressure to gain acceptance of their doctrines. Herschel Hobbs states that when one tries to coerce another into accepting a certain statement of faith, he ceases to act like a Southern Baptist. This view is rooted in 'soul competency,' which affirms that every person has the right to

believe in his own way. However, this does not mean that there are not parameters of belief. Each soul is subject to the Lordship of Christ. Therefore, there are Baptist distinctives that have been set forth in confessions of faith. These differ from creeds for creeds are created to keep some out and some in. Baptists are not a creedal people, but instead they seek to allow each to believe according to his conscience (i.e., while adhering to Scripture). Southern Baptists' view of the 'priesthood of the believer' plays a vital role in this conclusion. Unlike other religions who enforce unity, Southern Baptists promote voluntary cooperation. It is this 'way' of doing business that differentiates Southern Baptists from other Christian denominations."

These students are involved in outreach and ministry and grew up in churches in Tupelo, Saltillo, and Columbus. The present article confirms the conclusion of the original article that God has not left us without hope for the new generation!"

*Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.*



# Mississippi native, SWBTS dean dies of cancer

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Thomas "Tommy" D. Lea, dean of the Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) school of theology and a native of Houston, Miss., died July 2 at the age of 60 after a four-and-a-half-year battle with cancer. His funeral was held July 6 at Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Lea was named dean of the theology school at Southwestern, the world's largest seminary, in 1995. He had served as a professor of New Testament at Southwestern since 1979.

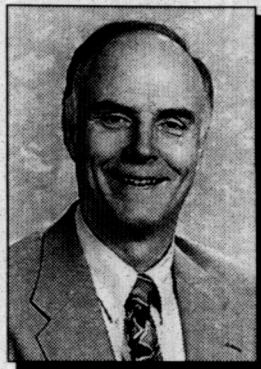
Southwestern president Kenneth S. Hemphill said the seminary has lost not only a dean, but also a colleague and friend.

"[Lea] led with vision and compassion," Hemphill said. "He had the unique ability to stand with clear conviction and yet build consensus among the faculty."

Lea, in public statements since 1996, made it clear his illness had not shaken his confi-

dence in God and in prayer.

"I have renewed the conviction that God is sovereignly in charge, even in my sickness," Lea said. "He has not left me. He is concerned about my spiritual good."



Lea

Lea also said people's prayers had given him strength, health, stamina, and endurance.

"But I don't have any conviction that they're going to bring me healing. God may not take the thorn away, but he will give us grace [to face whatever comes]. Prayer becomes the means to receiving that grace," he said.

In a 1998 article, Lea wrote that sicknesses like cancer are opportunities to know God more deeply and to experience his grace. Although Lea wrote he would "be pleased" if God chose to heal him in this life, he added that he knew "complete healing comes in the life beyond."

Soon after being named theology dean, Lea said his vision for the school of theology was to use technology to help make a Southwestern education available and accessible to anyone who wants it, anywhere. "We want to be here for the world, and we want the Fort Worth campus to be the linchpin of the effort," he said in a 1996 interview.

He summed up his view of the theological essence of Southwestern's mission in three words: practical, biblical, Christianity. "Our presentation must be practical to this world. Our inspiration must be the Bible, and we must be unashamedly followers of Christ," he said.

Prior to serving at Southwestern, Lea had been pastor of Hunter Street Church, Birmingham, Ala., and Liberty Church, Appomattox, Va. He also served as assistant pastor of Cliff Temple Church in Dallas.

Lea was born in Houston on Sept. 20, 1938, and earned a degree in electrical engineering from Mississippi State University

(MSU) in Starkville in 1960. During his senior year at MSU, he was called to preach. That year he also married Beverly, his high school sweetheart.

At Southwestern, Lea earned an M.Div. in 1964 and a Th.D. in 1967. He has written commentaries on 1 Cor., 1 and 2 Peter, Jude, and 1 and 2 Tim., along with numerous articles for theological journals.

He said in the 1992 interview that he hoped his commentaries would help readers catch some of the excitement that the Apostle Paul had about ministry.

In addition to his wife, Lea is survived by three children, Lisa Rutledge of Arlington, Texas; Marcie Funk, a missionary in Africa; and Clifton Thomas of Edmond, Okla.; and five grandchildren.



THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
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## WMU kicks off home building campaign

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Approximately 80 workers, mostly women, arrived July 12 in the West Park neighborhood of Jackson to begin construction on two new houses in a partnership between the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and Habitat for Humanity (HH).

The houses are part of a national WMU/HH partnership to build eight houses in seven states. In addition to the construction, mission teams spread through the community conducting Backyard Bible Clubs, door-to-door evangelism, a health clinic, legal seminars, and sports clinics.

On evenings of July 15-17, revival services will be held under a tent in Poindexter Park. The evangelist will be Jasper Bacon, a Canton-based African American minister.

On July 15, pre-revival activities start at 5:30 p.m., with services at 7:00 p.m. each night. The evening of July 16 is Youth Night, with a concert following the service. The evening of July 17 will feature an old-time gospel singing with Joe Hall, a former professional football player.

"I don't think anybody involved in any of the planning had any idea how big this project was going to be. It started small and just got bigger. People started calling us asking how they could be involved," said Kay Cassibry, executive director of Mississippi WMU.

In addition to WMU and HH, Jackson-based groups involved include Calvary Church, First Church, Hillcrest Church, Voice of Calvary Ministries, Jackson Junior League, Metro Housing Partnership, and Capital Neighbor's Association.

Construction workers and ministry volunteers gathered at Calvary Church, on the afternoon of July 11 for a commissioning service and orientation. Approximately half of the workers at both construction sites are Mississippi Baptists. The remainder are WMU women from out of state and HH workers, according to Tammy

Anderson, coordinator for the WMU/Habitat project and a consultant in the Mississippi WMU office.

"I'm real excited that it's all coming together," Anderson said. "Some people have taken vacation and driven up to 15 hours just to get here. They are committed, enthusiastic, and ready to go!"

Nina Redding, coordinator with Jackson HH, told the women not to worry if they had never done construction. "Habitat is accustomed to working with people who have never built before," she said.

Redding also advised the workers to "have a lot of patience and good humor."

"Sometimes you will be sitting and waiting for someone else to finish a job. Just enjoy the rest, and drink a lot of liquids," she said.

Jackson HH has built 160 homes since it was founded in 1986, Redding said, averaging around 25 a year. The two WMU partnership homes are the first Habitat houses to be built in the West Park community. Two more are scheduled to be built during the summer, Redding indicated.

Lisa Strong, member of First Church, Jackson, has coordinated the ministry projects, working closely with Linda Smith, community minister at Calvary Church, Jackson.

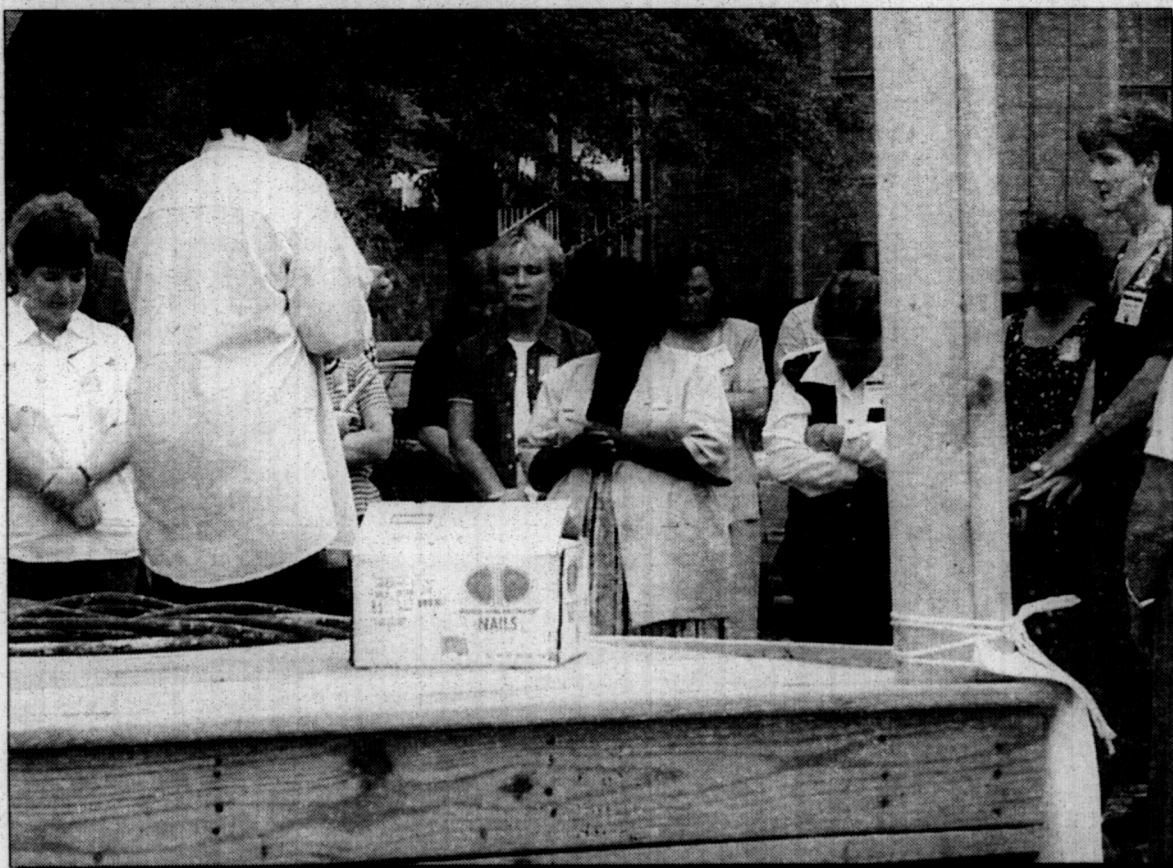
Groups and individuals from around the state are leading the Backyard Bible Clubs at 10 locations, conducting the door-to-door evangelism, leading the sports clinics at five different locations, and conducting revival services July 15-17.

"God is just going to work through all of this in a wonderful way. This is the beginning of something special. I'm overjoyed," Strong said.

Mississippi WMU president Rebecca Williams said this project is one of the most exciting mission events ever in Mississippi Baptist life. "From day one, it was the vision of WMU to build lives as well as houses," she said.

"I've been through Experiencing God, where you talk about finding out what God is doing and then ask to join him," Cassibry said.

"Well, I've never experienced it like this before. We had no idea how God had been preparing this for years. Only God knows the effect this will have on the city of Jackson, and on us," she pointed out.



HOUSE OF PRAYER — Amid construction supplies and a host of volunteers, Kathy Burns (second from left), consultant in the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) department, leads a prayer at the site of the WMU/Habitat for Humanity home being built for Delois Manning (center of front row) in the West Park section of Jackson. (Photo by Carl M. White)



## Reynolds gets music award from ASCAP

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Retired music professor William J. Reynolds has received an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Foundation lifetime achievement award for his more than five decades of contributions to church and gospel music.

Reynolds' 53-year career includes service as editor of the Baptist Hymnal and The New Broadman Hymnal in the 1970s.

He received the award "for his outstanding contributions as a composer, arranger, educator, and mentor in the field of church and gospel music" and a check for \$5,000 during a June 23 ceremony at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, where he served for 18 years.

# Prayers answered for neighborhood change

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Ruthie Chambers believes in the power of prayer. So does Georgia Magee. Both women are residents of the West Park neighborhood, a section in west central Jackson bordered by Lynch Street, Capitol Street and Ellis Avenue.

Chambers began praying several years ago for her neighborhood. She saw the rise in crime, the destruction of families caused by drugs, and the deterioration in the community. She and two friends — Albert Brown and Lillie Harris — started getting together to pray on Monday evenings.

Now, on the eve of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU)/Habitat for Humanity (HH) project to build two houses in West Park community and do ministry project throughout the neighborhood, Chambers' eyes fill with tears.

"I do know that God answers prayers," she said.

Part of the answer to her prayers was when Linda Smith came to Calvary Church to join the staff and lead in community ministries. Chambers and Smith soon found each other and discovered how prayer had brought them together.

Smith was serving as a Southern Baptist missionary when she felt God was calling her back to the U.S. to a new ministry. Chambers and her friends had been praying that God would send people to help their neighborhood. For Chambers, Smith is one of the answers to her prayers.

HH is another answer to Chambers' prayers. Habitat has been building houses in Jackson since 1986, as many as 25 a year but not in the West Park area, according to

Nina Redding of Jackson Habitat. Most of their ministry has been in the area of downtown Jackson known as Midtown.

"We have built 105 houses in Midtown," Redding said. "It has started a revitalization of that area."

WMU and HH have begun building the first two houses in West Park. Two more houses will be built before the summer is over.

Also, the Junior League of Jackson has taken an interest in West Park. Along Broad Street in the center of the neighborhood is an abandoned row of storefronts. The Junior League has secured one of the buildings and is opening a community center. During the WMU/HH building blitz, the Junior League is conducting a health clinic there.

Chambers feels all this is an answer to her and her friends' prayers.

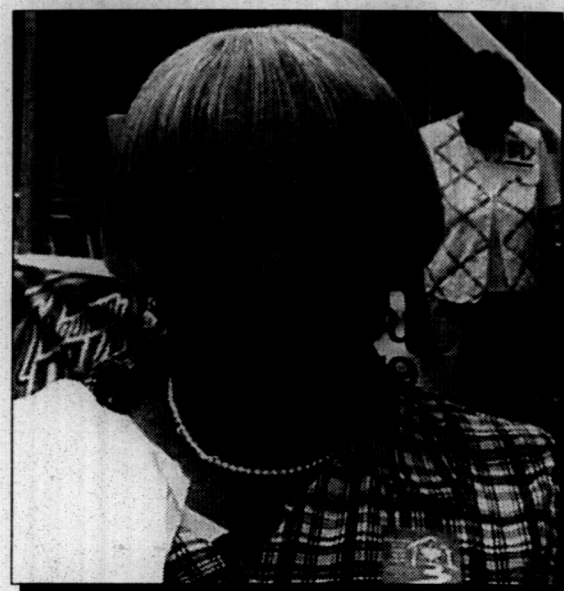
"He did say, that if we need him, all we have to do is call on him. Knock, and he will open up the door for you and show you the way," Chambers said.

Another prayer was answered for Georgia Magee. A 13-year veteran of Jackson Public Schools, Magee is the home owner of one of the two houses being built this week.

Magee too is a committed Christian. She cares for her 78-year-old father and is the foster mother of a 10-year-old daughter she is hoping to adopt.

"Before I do anything, I pray," Magee told the WMU workers gathered for orientation at Calvary Church, Jackson, on the evening of July 11.

"When (HH) called me to choose a lot for my house, I prayed and I heard the Lord say, 'The middle.' When I looked at



Magee

the map with the lots, there was one lot in the middle of three," she said.

Magee chose the lot in the middle. She went to the lot, knelt, and prayed there. Then problems arose related to some of the deeds in West Park. Habitat had to redo its lot assignments list.

"I prayed, 'Lord help me hold on to that middle lot,'" she said.

When the people ahead of her had selected their properties, Magee still had her lot in the middle.

"I still got my lot! Words cannot say how I feel today," Chambers told the Calvary Church crowd.

She said she is not finished praying, though. "We are still praying that there will be some lives saved."

## THE DISCIPLINE OF SECRECY

Late one night as I was driving home, I was surfing the radio trying to find something that would keep me interested and alert as I watched the passing of the black pavement. Eventually I hit upon a speaker. I do not know who he was or where he was from, but he was commenting on developing the discipline of "secrecy" in the spiritual life. I actually only heard a few sentences but those words spoke to my heart.

How many things do we do, intentionally and purposefully, in our spiritual lives in order not to get attention? Oftentimes it is difficult to do good deeds without being recognized — to visit a friend, to sing a song, to preach a sermon, to lead a class. All have attached the need to be seen and possibly appreciated. In fact, oftentimes we continue to do or we regress from doing good things because no one sees or appreciates what we are doing.

For some time now we have had a "terrorist" operating in the Baptist Building — not a "bad" terrorist planting bombs and shooting people, but a "good" one, and I suppose you could call him/her a "terrific" terrorist. Whoever this person is, he/she operates under the cover of secrecy and you never know when or how they will attack to do good. They have gone to every floor and seem to indiscriminately want to bless



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

people around them. They leave a note of encouragement or a special verse of Scripture and a little "happy" that brightens the day. You can imagine the curiosity that is created in all of us as people wonder who to blame for this blessing, yet no one knows. The person remains unidentified and the touches of grace continue.

I have watched with interest and amazement as people have tried to figure out who it is, only to find out or figure out it probably was not the person they thought it was. No one has admitted to being the "blessing bomber." Whoever it is, he/she is practicing the discipline of secrecy.

It is something along these lines that Jesus tried to tell us, that when we do alms or give good gifts to others, do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing. Just do a good deed because a good deed needs to be done.

It is a remarkable experience to do a good deed in secrecy, because both the giver and the recipient are affected. It feels

good to do it and to know that you literally carried it out with no ulterior motive, no design for reciprocal praise, or hope for personal accolades. The person touched by such an act is forced to thank God for the people around them and begin to live with an attitude of gratitude that has been enlarged.

One evening, years ago, my family and I went out to eat. The restaurant was filled with people but I did not see anyone that I knew. As we were concluding the meal, I discovered I did not have enough money to pay the bill. Slight panic and some embarrassment began to set in as I began to look at my options for payment, which basically included giving the cashier what money I had and telling her I would come back later, or asking her if I could run out to the car and get a check to write in order to pay.

About that time the waitress brought me my ticket and said, "Your meal has been taken care of." "By whom?" I asked. She said, "I don't know. A man came up and wanted to pay for

your meal and he took care of everything." I looked all around the room for any familiar face and saw none. To this day I do not know who my gracious benefactor deliverer was! If I had known I would have called or written to thank them or seen them personally to express appreciation. That would make me feel better. As it was, there was no one to thank and nothing to do but just live in gratitude for what had been done for me.

I could not tell you the number of times, because it has been so many, that I have asked God to bless whomever that special person was that blessed me on that day. It was an exercise in the discipline of secrecy. It seems to be that God multiplies the blessings that come through acts of goodness and kindness that are not known. There is a special aroma that is extra sweet around those actions.

A lady puts her last two mites in the offering container. She is unnamed but everybody knows her. A boy brings his little lunch of 5 loaves and 2 little fishes and his name is left out, but God and everybody knows him. A leper is healed and out of his gratitude turns to tell Jesus, "Thank you." His name is not mentioned but we all know him.

Today ask God to guide you in some unique way to enable you to experience the discipline of secrecy.



# Vestal issues appeal to 'nurture community'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP) — In 1990, unsuccessful Southern Baptist Convention presidential candidate Daniel Vestal called for a consultation of concerned Baptists to discuss options in light of moderates' increasing disenfranchisement in the SBC.

The meeting, held in Atlanta, drew 3,000 people and was the first step in formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

Nine years later, Vestal, now coordinator of the Atlanta-based Fellowship, addressed a similar-sized crowd in Birmingham, Ala. The mood, however, has changed.

Vestal called on participants in the Fellowship's June 24-26 General Assembly to "nurture community" in the coming year, following a focus on spirituality that guided Fellowship planning the past year.

"I don't know the shape or form the church in the 21st century will take, but I believe with all my heart that the only effective churches will be the ones that understand, practice, celebrate, and nurture Christian community," Vestal said in his annual address to the group.

"I don't know all that CBF will become, but I believe with all my heart that we will not become what God intends unless we nurture, celebrate, and practice Christian community," he said.

Moderator John Tyler echoed Vestal's call for community and lauded the Fellowship's forward-looking stance. "We are a people living in the present with eyes fixed firmly on the future," Tyler said. "Brothers and sisters, this is your home. These people are your extended community."

Meeting participants were invited to "shape the future" of the Fellowship by gathering in small groups to assess strengths, challenges, and priorities for the CBF.

Their responses will be used in a strategic ministry plan due to be developed dur-

ing the next 12 months and presented to the General Assembly next year, said John Brantley, an Athens, Ga., consultant hired to guide the process.

Registration totaled 2,452 as of Friday night. Final registration had not been tallied when the meeting closed at noon Saturday, but a registration worker said some people had registered as late as that morning.

Tyler said an estimated 3,600 attended the opening general session Thursday night.

Tyler, a retired communications executive from St. Louis, completed his one-year term as moderator by presiding over the General Assembly. Sarah Frances Anders, an emeritus professor at Louisiana College, who was elected last year as moderator-elect, will succeed him.

This year's General Assembly chose Donna Forrester as new moderator-elect, to preside in the year 2001. Forrester, minister of pastoral care and counseling at First Church in Greenville, S.C., will become the fifth woman to serve as the Fellowship's presiding officer in 10 years.

In a light business session, participants approved a \$15.5 million budget for 1999-2000. It anticipates \$8.7 million in undesignated gifts and \$5.1 through the Fellowship's annual Global Missions Offering.

The budget is 5% higher than this year's spending plan, said David Currie, chairman of the finance task group of the Fellowship's Coordinating Council.

Currie said finances this year are 8% above budget, but most of that is due to a 12% increase in the Global Missions Offering and a special appeal for Kosovo relief that pushed designated gifts up 39%. Funds for general operation are only 1% ahead of budget, he said.

Currie said the main reason the national budget hasn't grown in recent years is expansion of state and regional networks, several of which now have full-time staff.

He said that is good for the long-range health of the organization but has placed limits on missions work. "We are not doing many things I believe God wants us to do," Currie said.

In other business, the Fellowship appointed eight career and eight short-term missionaries, bringing the total CBF missionary force to 125.

In his last report as global missions coordinator, Keith Parks called the Fellowship's use of both career and volunteer missionaries "the best opportunity I know of in Christendom today" for the local church to be free in "shaping its own mission and yet not being isolated and taking on the world by itself."

Parks, who took early retirement as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to become the Fellowship's first global missions coordinator in 1993, planned to retire earlier this year but stayed on until the General Assembly.

A search committee had hoped to announce his successor in Birmingham but was unable to meet that goal, said Sanford Smith, the committee's chairman.

The General Assembly acted on one motion made from the floor. Lynn Wardell, one of four persons to resign last year from the Friends of New Churches board of directors after failing in an effort to fire the executive director, sought to restrict the organization to using the \$152,000 it will receive next year from the CBF only for grants to churches.

A breakout session for business discussed the motion for an hour before voting against it, 27-21.

## House panel OKs abortion restriction

WASHINGTON (BP) — The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee approved June 23 a bill seeking to protect the rights of parents when their underage, pregnant daughters are considering abortion.

The committee passed in a party-line vote, 16-13, with Republicans in the majority, the Child Custody Protection Act. The bill, H.R. 1218, would make it a crime for an adult to transport a minor to another state for an abortion without the parents' involvement when the state in which the girl lives requires either parental notification or consent before such a procedure.

Democrats offered 10 amendments before the final committee vote, but all failed. Among those were attempts to expand those who could transport minors for abortions to include grandparents, cousins, and religious leaders, a congressional staff member said.

Some studies have shown a majority of minors who become pregnant are impregnated by men 18 or older. Such a man has an incentive to keep the pregnancy hidden by means of a secret abortion, since he is vulnerable to a statutory rape charge, supporters of the legislation said.

Opponents of the bill have argued in part it will drive girls to obtain unsafe abortions rather than inform their parents or seek a judicial bypass.

## Keith Parks honored with scholarship, travel fund

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP) — Keith and Helen Jean Parks found "treasure" at the end of their "second rainbow" in an evening of laughter, tears, celebration, and somber reflection with 1,300 friends at a June 21 banquet in Birmingham, Ala.

One "treasure" — unearthed as Keith Parks retires at age 71 from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) — was a profuse expression of love, respect, and admiration from Baptists around the world.

They delivered those emotions via letters, songs, personal testimony, a humorous "roast," and video clips — including a video tribute from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Another "treasure" was a CBF announcement of an "R. Keith Parks Global Scholarship Fund," now totaling \$70,000 in contributions. It will expand over the years to fund training for leaders in neglected and unreached parts of the globe that Parks has championed over the years.

The Parks family's "first rainbow," Helen Jean Parks said, spanned their 38 years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, where her husband took early retirement in 1992 after 12 years as president.

The second "six-year rainbow," she said, spanned the period, 1993-99, which her hus-

band spent as CBF's first global-missions coordinator, laying the groundwork for a missions program focusing on neglected people in a world without borders.

Keith Parks, who has seen many breakthroughs in missions, said his CBF tenure has shown him "a discernible moving of God's spirit in a more powerful way than in any other six-year period" in his ministry.

"But I didn't join CBF because of missions," he told the crowd filling the huge Birmingham Ballroom at the Sheraton Hotel. "I came because of a conviction that it's the way Baptist Christians have always worked and should work."

Fellowship Coordinator Daniel Vestal said CBF's missions program has impact far beyond its age and size because of the influence of Keith Parks and his priority to reach a lost world.

Vestal said Parks, who retires June 30, will now assist the CBF Foundation "to identify and develop financial resources for the future" as the Parks begin "a third rainbow" of service based in their native Texas.

"Contrary to popular opinion, you're not here to view the body," quipped Parks, who will move from Atlanta, to Richardson, Texas, and focus on

writing, speaking, and traveling. "We're still going to be kicking."

Bryan Tours of Jackson, announced establishment of a travel fund, now totaling \$10,000, for the Parks. "We don't know how many countries we've sent you to over the years," said Josephine Bryan, "but we want you to travel wherever you wish for the rest of your life."

Personal testimonies throughout the evening used words like "wisdom," "openness," "love," "passion for the lost," "innovation," "role model," "mentor," "vision," "truthfulness," "personal humility," "warmth," "energy," "dynamic biblical preaching," and "integrity" to describe Parks' 45 years of service.

"Keith Parks has made a tremendous impact," declared former President Carter, who said he called Parks in 1992 to urge him to join CBF as global-missions coordinator.

"He has a passion for the lost and integrity under pressure," Carter said. "Keith's mission is missions. He has championed the cause of thousands. I want to thank him for what he's done to keep us in touch with the heart of Jesus Christ."

Baptist leaders also praised Parks for his commitment to integrity and truth in the midst of Southern Baptist denomina-

tional strife that led to his decision to leave the Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board).

Personal tributes from missionaries and the Parks' four children were the most emotional parts of the evening.

"You encouraged me as a woman [in ministry] to do what God led me to do, not respond to what people said," said daughter Eloise Parks, a chaplain at Parklands Hospital in Dallas who was recently endorsed by CBF's council on endorsement for chaplains and pastoral counselors. "I've never heard you say anything from the pulpit that you haven't lived in your life."

Sons Randall Parks, a former missionary, and Kent Parks and Stan Parks, both assigned as CBF international coordinators in Southeast Asia, also paid tribute to their father.

They echoed what others said about his major contributions to developing missions in unreached parts of the globe but took it a step further.

"You taught me what it means to forgive others, even when slandered," Kent said. "You taught me that anything is possible with God."

"As good as you were in missions," said Stan, "you did a better job as a father. You're not just my father but my friend."



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Youth Bible Drill participants, New Zion Church, Crystal Springs



Children's Bible Drill participants, New Zion Church, Crystal Springs

**New Zion Church, Crystal Springs,** Bible Drillers for 1999 included (1st row) are Jill Singletary, Bradley Anderson; (2nd row) Trey Farmer, Ben Bridges, Sam Drew, Brett Selman, and Annie Selman; (3rd row) Wayne and Kay Selman and Raymond and Melodye Dear, leaders. Youth pictured (1st row) are Matthew Blakeney, Marsha Anderson, Tiffany Farmer, Nikki Smith, Lindsey Cessna, Lauren

Teasley, Melissa Turnbo; (2nd row) Jonathan Selman, Abe Singletary, Jessica Merchant, Kristin Cessna, Justin Teasley, Stacy Drew, Sarah Wroten; (3rd row) Roy and Kathy Cessna and Ray and Donna Kay Smith. (Not pictured is Josh Selman).

**Souenlovie Church, Clarke Association,** will have a singing featuring the Revelations of Jackson on July 24 at 6:30 p.m.

**Canaan Church, Ashland,** has a newly formed senior adults club that meets the third Thursday of each month at 11:45 a.m. For more information, call the church at (601) 223-6378.

**Mt. Zion Church, Simpson County,** will celebrate its 175th anniversary on July 25. Services will begin at 10:30 a.m., lunch at noon, and afternoon services at 1 p.m.



**A World Ventures for GAs** was held at First Church, Lucedale, on June 13. Pictured (front row, from left) are Brittany Turner, Taylor Rounsaville, Rae Ann Jones, and Lauren Turner; (middle row) Amber Allen, Deanna Turner, Jamie Scott, Caitlyn Hilbun, and Whitney Martin; (back row) Connie Hilbun, teacher for grades 4th-6th; Debbie Brannan, teacher for grades 1st-3rd; and Peggy Curd, director.

### HOMECOMINGS

**Sarepta, Meadville:** July 25; John Cutrer, guest speaker; Webb Armstrong, pastor.

**Cato, Mendenhall:** July 25; 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with lunch served in fellowship hall; revival services will continue throughout the week at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Former pastors bringing the message each night; Joe Styron, music; Lowell Ingram, pastor.

**Second, Calhoun City:** July 25; 55th anniversary; service, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish meal will be served; service, 1:30 p.m., Joe Hicks, former member, Centre, Ala., will speak at both services; Carl Morris, pastor.

**Springfield, Natchez:** July 25; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish luncheon, 12 noon; singing, 1:15 p.m.; Gene Rowland, pastor.

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RAs of First Church, Lucedale

**RA Recognition Service** was held at First Church, Lucedale, on June 13; RAs pictured (front row, from left) are Tyler Williams, Rory Nelson, Willie Dunnam, Chase Allen, and Brett Nelson; (back row) leaders are Chuck Allen, William Dunnam, and Jill Dunnam



**Members of Second Avenue Church, Laurel,** celebrated the burning of the loan note for the purchase of relocation property. The ceremony celebrated the full payment of a loan to purchase property for relocation of the church facilities. The note burning ceremony was a highlight of the church's Challenge to Build banquet held June 13. Participating in the ceremony were (from left) Dale Bowling, church treasurer; Roger Wade, chairman of the Long-Range Planning and Building Committee; Dwayne Weems, who conducted the ceremony; and Ken Regan, pastor.

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Robert (Bobby) Smith** retired from the pastorate on June 12 and is available for pulpit supply or interim pastorate. His new address is 2530 Warren Road, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or call (601) 833-4103.

**Tim McJunkin** (left) is pictured with Jerry Mixon (right) receiving his certificate of ordination to the gospel ministry. McJunkin was ordained by Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, upon his call as pastor of East Salem Church, Greene County.



McJunkin and Mixon



**James L. (Jim) Balliet** was licensed to the ministry on June 6 by Nonnie Jefcoat, pastor of Plainway Church, Laurel. Pictured (from left) are Jefcoat, Balliet, and Faye R. Ritchey, church clerk.

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**CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED:** Full-time position available at Baddour Center, Senatobia, Mississippi, for director of renowned 22-member traveling choir, The Miracles. Baddour Center is a Christian ministry to adults with mild and moderate mental retardation. Contact Gena Lott, 662-562-9666, ext 301, or fax 662-562-6979.

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**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Individual must possess interest in assisting the church in creating new models for ministry and a willingness to have responsibilities directed by developing as well as existing needs. Send resumes to: Associate Pastor Search Committee, Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan Avenue, Saint Louis, Missouri 63139.

**FERRIDAY FIRST CHURCH IS SEEKING** full-time minister of youth/education; send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, P.O. Box 386, Ferriday, LA 71334.

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**FULL-TIME PASTORATE AVAILABLE.** Send resume to South Lake Charles Baptist Church, Attention: Pastor Search Committee, 4505 Lake Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605.

**Pleasant Hill Church, Quitman,**



Pruitt

held a reception on June 12 in honor of Bruce Pruitt. He graduated from New Orleans Seminary with a Master's Degree in Church Music. Pruitt and his wife Tanya are the parents of a son, Dalton.

**Samantha Gibson** of Magnolia Church, Laurel, placed superior in the children's state Bible drills.



**Chester Gibson** Church, Choctaw Association, recently recognized Pam Simpson for serving as VBS director for 13 years. She was presented a gold bracelet. Pictured with Simpson is Philip Cooper, pastor.



Simpson and Cooper

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** is needed at Gunter Road Baptist Church. Send resumes to Dick Steadman, 1220 Gunter Road, Florence, MS 39073. Call 601-932-2542 or 601-939-2542.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC** mail or E-mail resume to: Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 2153 Bethel Road, Liberty, MS 39645 or oakknoll@telepak.net.

**FULL-TIME POSITION:** Minister of Youth/Music. Send resume to Walker Hill Baptist Church, 1110 Wade Patrick Road, Brandon, MS 39042, ATTN: Fran Kelly.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH** mail or E-mail resume to: Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 2153 Bethel Road, Liberty, MS 39645 or oakknoll@telepak.net.

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**PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH AND/OR MUSIC** for a rural church. Send resumes to: Attention: Brian Burge, Rolling Hills Baptist Church, 1386 McNeil Steep Hollow Road, Carriere, MS 39426.

**Ron Herrod** has been named



Herrod

"Alumnus of the Year" at Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Fla. Herrod is a 1965 graduate of William Carey College (WCC). He held student pastorates in Laurel, Columbia, and Pascagoula while a student at WCC and New Orleans Seminary.

**Bradley Rushing**, student at New Orleans Seminary, placed fourth in the 1999 Acton Institute Homiletics



Rushing

Competition, a national contest open to masters of divinity and theology students sponsored by the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty based in Grand Rapids, Mich. The 1999 sermon topic came from Jesus' parable of the tenants found in Matthew 25:14-28. Rushing submitted his sermon, "The Tragic Cost of Lost Opportunity." A native of Tylertown, Rushing serves as minister of students and children at Bogue Chitto Church in Tylertown, Pike Association.

## William Henry Marsh Jr., 79, minister, dies

William Henry Marsh Jr., 79, of Sumrall, died on June 23. He had complications following surgery in Hattiesburg. Marsh pastored churches in Mississippi and Louisiana, including Foxworth, Goss, Hepzibah, Oral, and Sauls' Valley.

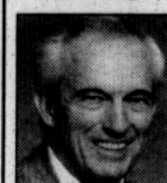
"Besides his preaching ministry, Marsh will be remembered for the many baptistry scenes he painted in various churches. He also painted portraits and landscapes for individuals. In later years, he taught art classes in Sumrall," said his daughter Lenora Waits.

Survivors include his wife Christine Vinson Marsh of Sumrall; daughters, Mary Broome of Sumrall, Melanie Moree of Brookhaven, and Lenora Waits of Meridian; five grandchildren; one great granddaughter; and a sister Geraldine Crane of New Orleans.



**Leland M. Hogan** celebrated his 30th anniversary as pastor at Carterville Church, Petal, on June 20. During the morning worship service, Hogan and his wife Dona Ruth were presented with a trip to Alaska. The Hogans were honored with a reception that afternoon.

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# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Carey Dinner Theatre presents Stardust, an enchanting musical revue featuring music from the 1920s to the 1950s, as the second production of its 25th anniversary season.



Jason Harvey, a recent graduate of North Forrest High School, has signed a scholarship with William Carey College to become the school's first golf major when the 1999-2000 academic year begins in August. Harvey is an active member of Providence Church of Hattiesburg. Pictured surrounded by friends and family, Ginny and Stan Harvey of Hattiesburg watch as their son (center) signs scholarship papers.

Performances, scheduled for July 6-17, are on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College. The admission price of \$17.50 includes dinner and the show. Seats may be reserved by calling (601) 582-6221.

Mississippi College (MC) has set Aug. 2-3 as the dates for the Tenth Annual Minister's Golf Tournament. The tournament, co-sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is open to ministers, pastors, church staff, directors of missions, and BSU directors. For more information, contact Ken Gilliam at MC, (601) 925-3263.

Alfred Foy, professor of education and chair of the department of education since 1986 at William Carey College (WCC),



Foy and Kennedy

is pictured with Larry Kennedy, president of WCC, during a retirement reception held in Foy's honor recently.

## Bivocational Council to tackle Miss. bivo issues

By Don Windham, pastor  
Ted Church, Bay Springs

The Mississippi Bivocational Advisory Council (MBAC) met at the Baptist Building June 8. The council is made up of bivocational pastors, directors of missions, and college professors and is under the direction of the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries (CAPM) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBCB).

MBAC's objective is to affirm, instruct, and educate the people of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on this vital, sometimes overlooked part of God's kingdom work. It was organized as the state equivalent of the national council that has served the Southern Baptist Convention for over ten years.

In support of that objective in Mississippi, several items have been accomplished, and

several are in process. A pamphlet, describing the pros and cons of bivocationalism, and a series of recommendations was published and distributed last year.

A manual entitled, "The Bivocational Primer" is in publication; a pastor's manual covering the wide range of skills needed is being prepared; and other written resources are available from MBCB.

An editor for the state bivoca-

tional newsletter, "The Tent-maker" has been appointed, and a volunteer staff of encouragers is contacting other state entities, associations, and churches to encourage this Biblical alternative method of ministry.

In support of the method, we should remember that the majority of our ministers, and all of our churches, began in this mode of operation.

Most of all we seek the prayerful support of all those who love God, especially every Southern Baptist, as we try to reach our lost neighbors for Jesus Christ.

For more information, contact CAPM, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## BCHS nursing symposium set for July 18-24

The Regional Continuing Education office of Baptist College of Health Sciences (BCHS) in Memphis will host a Congregational Nursing Symposium from July 18-24 to teach health care providers how to administer non-invasive care to those in their spiritual community.

"Congregational nursing encompasses the holistic concepts of caregiving I was taught as a young nursing student," said Debbie Hooser, R.N., M.S.N., manager of emergency cardiovascular care training at the College's Center for Continuing Education. "It embodies psychosocial, spiritual, emotional, and physical care given gently and with compassion. An element that adds to the program is the community development that occurs between the participants through the living and learning environment during the week-long program. I am grateful to find the avenue in which to practice the profession of nursing."

For more information, call (901) 227-4580 or (888) 857-8344.

## STAFF CHANGES

Second Church, Greenville, has called Scott Frank as associate pastor. Frank has had former pastoral experience and will be working with the young adult families at Second Church.



Frank

Dennis M. Wells is the pastor of Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove. A May graduate of New Orleans Seminary, he has served churches in Louisiana and Nevada.

Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus, has called Terry Veazey as minister of music and associate pastor effective July 25. Veazey recently served at West End Church, West Point.

Pleasant Hill Church, Quitman, has called Gene Pickern as pastor. He previously served Unity Church, Atmore, Ala.

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Concord Church, Rankin Association, has called Billy McKay as pastor.

First Church, Cleveland, has called Danny Powell as pastor effective June 15. Powell, a native of Purvis, is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as pastor of First Church, Butler, Ala.



Powell

Knox Church, Walthall Association, called James T. Ennis Jr. as pastor. A native of Lake Wales, Fla., Ennis is presently pursuing a degree at New Orleans Seminary. He

previously served in Louisiana and Florida. Dennis Langley, former pastor of Knox Church, resigned in March 1999.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**First Church, Kosciusko,** dedicated the Auris Pender Missionary Home on June 20. Pender, a missionary to China, Hong Kong, Hawaii, Singapore, and Malaysia from 1935 to 1962, resided in Kosciusko the last few years of her life and devoted her time and ministry to missions in the state and First Church. Barry C. Corbett, pastor, led the dedicatory service. An open house followed the dedication service. On June 26, Tom and Tammy Fox, missionaries to Moldova, and their teenage son and daughter will occupy the house for a six-month furlough.

**The Senior Singers** (pictured), a newly formed Senior Adult Choir at Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, presented the musical "A New Hope" by Robert Robinson, recently at the evening service. The group, under the direction of Marian Thornton, also has performed at Hilltop Nursing Home in Union and at Hickory Church. David Grumbach is pastor.



Senior Singers of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur

## AAEO goals surpassed

The following churches surpassed their Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goals.

CHURCH	GOAL	AMOUNT RECEIVED
Cold Springs, Collins	\$1,000.00	\$1,843.35
Escatawpa, Escatawpa	\$2,500.00	\$2,757.25
First, Crystal Springs	\$7,000.00	\$7,739.00
First, Kosciusko	\$8,500.00	\$9,369.10
First, Terry	\$4,000.00	\$4,442.69
New Elbethel, Oxford	\$1,000.00	\$1,007.58
New Hope, Foxworth	\$2,000.00	\$2,515.00
Phalti, Prentiss	\$2,000.00	\$2,190.00
Tishomingo, Tishomingo	\$1,000.00	\$1,062.00
Wayside, Vicksburg	\$ 700.00	\$ 826.57

**Galilee First Church, Gloster,** "Celebration 175...1824-1999, Angels Among Us" fourth special service will be July 18. The guest speaker will be Odus Jackson. He was sent out from Galilee to the ministry 40 years ago. The church's history for 1930-1965 will be presented by Eunice Stokes. At the conclusion of the service, there will be a time of fellowship with lunch. Homecoming Sunday is scheduled for Aug. 15.

**Baptist Health Systems** won nine awards in the Mississippi Hospital Association's 12th annual Maggie Awards presentation, held June 24 in Biloxi. The awards recognize excellence in health care marketing and public relations efforts, and are judged by healthcare marketing professionals from other states. More than 30 hospitals, health systems, and healthcare organizations submitted more than 350 entries in the contest.



**First Church, Holly Springs,** voted to give a Ford Van to Partnership Missions. Pictured are Mackie Davis, Partnership Missions, left, and Gene Holbrook, right, member of First Church. The van will be used in Honduras to transport missionaries and volunteers that are building houses.

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**Dedication ceremonies** were held at Canaan Church, Ashland, on June 6 for its new family life center. The building will house additional Sunday School rooms, kitchen, fellowship hall, and basketball court. Speakers were Reggie Bridges, pastor; Bob Holland, Saltillo; and Larry A. Dukes, Waterford, former pastor.

## Mississippians graduate at Mid-America

Mississippi students among the graduating class of 1999 at Mid-America Seminary, Germantown, Tenn., were J. C. Buford, Tunica, Associate of Divinity Degree; Kevin Crawford, Brandon, Master of Arts in Religion and Education; David Johnson, Greenville, Master of Divinity degree; Dwyndyl Lynn Nelms, Olive Branch, Master of Divinity Degree; Dale Sorgen, Clarksdale, Master of Divinity; and Jerry Vinson Welch, currently living in Memphis, Doctor of Philosophy Degree.



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1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

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## South Africa missionary dies June 22

CAPETOWN, South Africa (BP) — Joe Barrow, a Southern Baptist missionary to South Africa, died June 22 after an apparent heart attack.

Barrow, 56, was playing tennis with fellow Southern Baptist missionary Ron Lomax and two other evangelical missionaries and collapsed on the court about noon. Efforts to revive him failed.

A native of Kinston, N.C., Barrow and his wife, Faye, were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board as missionaries in 1977.

Barrow is survived by his wife, Faye; two daughters, Sheila Parr and Sharon Davis, both of Arlington, Texas; and a son, Jared Barrow, of Raleigh, N.C.

**Hebron (Amite):** July 11-16; 7 p.m.; David Jay, Becker, evangelist; Janet Jay, Becker, music; Rob Westbrook, pastor.

**Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown:** July 18-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; James E. Messer Sr., evangelist; Mike Reid, pastor.

**Singleton, Louisville:** July 18-22; homecoming and revival; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. with lunch following morning service; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Patsy Moore, music; Charles Rook, pastor.

**Pleasant Grove, Brookhaven:** July 18-23; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. followed by meal; Discipleship Training, 5:15 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, Lucedale, evangelist; James Beasley, music; Kent H. Cochran, pastor.

**Calvary, Bogue Chitto:** July 18-22; different evangelists each night: David Millican, Sunday; Bill Wright, Monday; Jon Daniels, Tuesday; Johnny Sykes, Wednesday; and Todd Stewart, Thursday; Mike and Angela Britt, music; Hal Hatten, pastor.

**Hickory (Newton):** Aug. 15-20; services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Kevin Meador, Stratton, evangelist; T. R. Darsey, Winona, music.

**First, Mt. Olive:** July 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Stan Buckley, Taylorsville, evangelist; Paul Padgett, Mt. Olive, music; Gerald Buckley, pastor.

**Terry's Creek, Magnolia:** July 18-21; regular Sunday services; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Kent Newell, pastor.

**Pleasant Hill, Quitman:** camp meeting revival; July 18-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bruce Gill, Hammond, La., evangelist; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, music; Bruce Pruitt, music director; Gene Pickern, pastor.

**First, Satartia:** July 18-21; Dwight Sibley, Vicksburg, evangelist; James D. Whittington, interim pastor.

**Line Creek, Morton:** July 18-23; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and lunch in fellowship hall; 7 p.m. each night; J. B. (Cotton) Miller, evangelist; Bill Rigby, music.

**Mars Hill (Amite):** July 18-21; 7 p.m. each evening; Raymond Whitfield, professor at Fruitland Bible College in N.C., evangelist; Victor Walsh, music; Phil Winter, pastor.

**Corinth (Kemper):** July 25-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Kevin Meador, Newton County, evangelist; Geraldine Higginbotham, Arkadelphia Church, Kemper County, music; Lisa Pevey, Corinth, music; T. C. Pinson, interim pastor.

**McAdams (Attala):** July 18-21; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Freddie Williford, Georgia, evangelist; Linda Cauthers, McAdams Church, music; Jamie Moore, pastor.

**Antioch, Union:** July 18-21; 7 p.m. nightly; Kara Blackard, Corinth, evangelist; Wayne Bishop, Antioch Church, music; James Young, pastor.

**Cedar View, Olive Grove:** July 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and concert at 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carroll Robertson, evangelist.

**Sylva Rena, Water Valley:** July 25-30; 7 p.m. nightly; Tom Atwood, Oxford, evangelist; Eric Fearingm, Oxford, music; David Sapp, pastor.

**New Sardis, Mount Olive:** July 25-30; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James S. Maddox, Mize, evangelist; Jasper Butler, Brandon, music; James H. Garner, pastor.

**Calvary, Durant:** Aug. 1-4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Harvey, guest speaker for Sunday services; Gary Jackson, guest speaker, Mon.-Wed.; Joe Styron, music; Willie Bishop, pastor.

**Calvary, Natchez:** July 25-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Tony Monk, Vicksburg, evangelist; Mike Harrigill, pastor.

**Mt. Zion (Simpson):** July 26-30; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Jerry Doggett, Popular Springs Church, Simpson County, evangelist; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

**Liberty, Liberty:** July 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m., complimentary lunch; Robert Hamblin, North Carolina, evangelist; Ben and Rebecca Caston, Picayune, music; Martin Hayden, pastor.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*I have been married for 49 years to a man I thought was a Christian. He recently confessed that he picked up prostitutes for several years. I don't know what to do; I know God will carry me through this but I am heartbroken.*

*I was married to an abusive man who threatened me twice with a shotgun. I am recovering from the horrible separation and divorce, but I can't get over the guilt for not making the marriage work. I would appreciate any book titles or guidance.*

We all make mistakes, and this is obviously a big one. If you cannot talk with him about the reasons this happened, then find a neutral, objective third party who can sit down with both of you and help you communicate through this issue. If your husband is not willing to work with you, this raises serious concerns. However, if he is willing to confess to you his wrong (as he has already done), God is probably working on him. Why did he tell you now? Is it guilt or is it God? Did he ask for forgiveness, or is he just wanting to ease his conscience? Do you see true evidence of repentance, or is there just relief that he no longer has to carry this burden? If there is a need for forgiveness, brokenness, and grief, you are watching God at work. If not, be patient and see if he will move to the point of repentance. Be careful, though — there may be surprises still to come.

When challenged to list the most important commandment, Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no greater commandment than these." (Mark 12:30-31 NIV). You are required to love yourself as you love your neighbor. Loving yourself means taking care of yourself. If you are in danger, get help and seek safety. Don't put yourself in harms' way. We were never meant to be anyone's whipping post. Find a Christian counselor, your pastor, or a woman who has experienced this trauma, and talk about your grief, loss, hurt, violation, and fear. Some good books are *Love Must Be Tough* by James Dobson; *Christian Men who Hate Women* by Margaret J. Rinck; and *Into Abba's Arms* by Sandra Wilson.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## Miss. leaders attend WMU



Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) presidents attending the 1999 annual meeting of the national WMU organization June 13-14 at Wieuca Road Church in Atlanta represented 25 years of leadership in the state's top WMU post. The presidents in attendance and the years they served were: (back row, from left) Joan Tyler, 1989-93; Sandra Nash, 1993-97; Pattie Dent, 1979-84; (front row, from left) Frances Smira, 1974-79; E'Wilda Fancher, 1984-89; and Rebecca Williams, 1997-present. (WMU photo courtesy of Teresa Dickens)



## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Obedying a command

Genesis 22:1-19

By Grant Arinder

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." (Gen. 22:2)

**A troubling request.** Do the words of Gen. 22:2 trouble you? If so, take heart; alas, you are in excellent company. Both John Calvin and Martin Luther called the passage a contradiction.

In Gen. 15:4 God promises Abraham a son that will be the father of a great nation. Again, and more specifically, in Gen. 21:12 God tells Abraham that, "it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reclaimed." Therefore, the command of

God (sacrifice your son) and the promise of God (through Isaac your offspring will be reclaimed) are in apparent contradiction.

The question is, how to reconcile this apparent contradiction. A survey of commentators on this passage reveal differing approaches, none of which are completely satisfactory.

Perhaps the words of Dr. Walter Bruggemann are instructive at this point. "The expositor must take care not to explain, for it will not be explained. But without explanation, the text leads us to face the reality that God is God...God is shown to be freely sovereign just as he is graciously faithful.



Arinder

That God tests is a disclosure of his free sovereignty. That God provides shows his gracious faithfulness."

**Other considerations.** Josiah abolished the practice of human sacrifice (2 Kings 23:10). The prophets also condemned the practice in Jeremiah 19:5 and Ezekiel 20:30-31. The law also prohibited the sacrifice of people and condemned those who offered their eldest sons to Molech (Lev. 18:21; 20:2).

**Blessed assurance.** The fruit of this tremendous encounter between Abraham and Yahweh rests not so much in the test of God, but in the reply of Abraham. A careful reading of the passage suggests that Abraham believed each moment of the way that God would be faithful to his previous promise.

Even though Abraham walked through the valley of

the shadow of death, he feared no evil. You might say that Abraham was possessed by a "blessed assurance." Consider Abraham's confident words to his servant, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Or consider his words to his own son, "The fire and the wood are here." Isaac said, "But where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb."

Abraham's ready obedience was based on his blessed assurance in the promises of God. Each step of the way Abraham remembered the promise of God, that through his son Isaac God would raise up a great nation.

**Foreknowledge and free-will.** "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God."

At first glance this simple

phrase might seem relatively benign. Yet, at its heart is one of the great theological mysteries. If God knows all things, then why do we read the words in this text? Was God unsure of Abraham's intentions? The passage clearly states that he was.

If he was not unsure, and already knew how Abraham would respond then why this awesome test in the first place? The question becomes, "Are humans free to make moral decisions?" If so, is God still sovereign?

God, in his sovereignty, has designed a perfect plan for each of us. We may choose to follow that plan or not. When we do not, we call that sin. So, let's be sure of one thing. Sin is our moral blunder, not God's. God, in his awesome sovereignty, chose to give us free will. Like Abraham, each day we also face the challenge of faithful living.

Arinder is pastor of First Church, Belzoni.

## LIFE AND WORK

### Why be involved in church?

1 Cor. 12:12-27

By Tony Martin

Many people have been hurt deeply in church. Perhaps you're one of them. Probably most Christians love church in theory or concept, but have problems loving the people who make up the church.

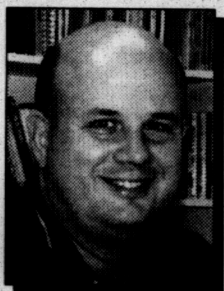
Interestingly, many Christians choose not to be involved in church, and many church members don't attend church much, if at all. We even design our buildings to house only about half of our membership.

Still others are faithful attendees, but rarely assume any leadership positions or give in any significant fashion. Some even are content to sit and watch religious programming on TV.

The New Testament knows nothing of solitary Christianity. Christian faith is personal, not private. Each church member has a significant place to fill in the life of the local church, and unless hindered providentially, should be involved consistently in that local church. How can that be best understood?

**Each member is a part (vv. 12-13, 27).** In Paul's discussion of spirituality and spiritual gifts, he springs an arresting image of the church of Jesus Christ on his readers. Two great pictures emerge: the church is a family, and the church is a body.

Using the analogy of the



Martin

body, Paul argues that each believer, both locally and universally, is part of the body of Christ and has a crucial part in it. He affirms the unity of the church, and although the body is made of many members, each one is an intrinsic part of that body. We are all part of the body of Christ!

This idea of being part of the body of Christ helps us see how Jesus works in the world today. Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:20-22 that Jesus is the head of the body, and as the head he directs us to be about his work in the world. We are his hands and feet and eyes and ears.

So, if we're all part of the body of Christ, organically and inseparably, then we are to be committed wholeheartedly to the cause of Christ and the local church.

**The church needs each member (vv. 14-20).** Paul used

this analogy of the body to teach us about our relationship with each other. We're dependent on each other! No one in the church has total gifting. It's through cooperation that each of us can make the maximum contribution that helps the church grow and flourish. Moreover, the church has to be made up of a diversity of people.

The church cannot function properly apart from the involvement of each of its members. Each member should find what his or her supernatural gifting is, and express that gifting in the life of the church.

When there is not total cooperation from all the members, then problems arise. Incidentally, when the most basic of all body parts, the cell, doesn't "cooperate" with the rest of the human body, we call that cancer.

**Each member needs all other members (vv. 21-26).** It's

evident that each member of the church needs every other member. The whole spirit of the Corinthian church was individualistic; they picked favorites, competed for acclaim, and just seemed unable to see or understand that God honored interdependence, not independence.

Today we put a high premium on competitiveness and individual achievement. God's intent for the church is that there be no division but that we stand firm alongside all the other members.

We need the support of the church to grow spiritually. We are a body. It is as a body — honoring each part, giving and receiving ministry — that we need to learn to live as part of God's family. Christians who try to isolate themselves from their local churches ultimately hurt themselves.

Martin is minister of education at First Church, McComb.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Open hearts, separated lives

2 Cor. 6:3-7:1

By Ted Dukes

One of the most injurious things a professing Christian can do is to set a bad example. Paul wanted to stress the importance of glorifying God in good times and in bad, so he reminds the Corinthians of the trials he endured in the name of Jesus and for their sake (vv. 4-5).

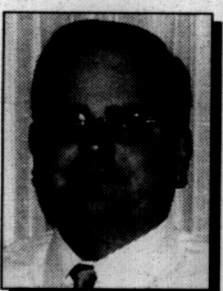
Some of the difficulties of life he mentions are common to all people, but he includes some that obviously resulted from his preaching Christ (e.g. stripes, imprisonment, riots).

It was not the Apostle's intention to boast, but to assure the Corinthians of his devotion to Christ and love for them. He put his life on display so as to

squelch the criticisms of his enemies in the church who questioned his credentials, his leadership ability, and his intentions.

He reminds them of the tools of ministry that he had used (vv. 6-7). Paul kept himself morally clean. He exercised patience with difficult people. He depended upon the power of the Holy Spirit to manifest the fruit of the Spirit and protect him from the attacks of the evil one (Eph. 6:10ff). He reminded them of the testimony he bore (6:8-10), further asserting his honor in the face of the evil reports of dishonorable people.

Paul was a joy-filled man who strove to be a bringer of



Dukes

joy, becoming poor that they might become rich (1 Cor. 1:5; 2 Cor. 8:9), but there were those in the church who did not appreciate all he did on their behalf.

Paul was not begging for praise, but was reminding his friends in Corinth that his ministry to them had cost him dearly. I wonder if the church caught the implicit question in all that Paul was saying in his defense. Did they ask themselves how much suffering for the church, giving to the church, sacrificing on the church's behalf these detractors had done?

**The nature of the believer (vv. 14-16).** Paul presented three arguments to try to convince these believers that they must be pure of that which is ungodly.

The word translated concord or harmony is the Greek word from which we derive our word symphony. Just as the act of

musical instruments played in organized agreement with one another produces beautiful music, so also the act of Christians cooperating produces effective result. It is the difference between the chaos of the orchestra warming up, each musician playing his or her own scales, and the moment when the conductor raises his baton.

Paul saw those stark opposites of belief and unbelief, light and darkness, righteousness and Belial. This word occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. Paul seems to be using an Old Testament word as a proper name, though in Hebrew thought "adam belial" (Prov. 6:12) is a child of wickedness and was used as a common expression. Some things are just that black and white.

**The command of Scripture (v. 17).** Not only does human nature demand we abstain from ungodliness to be effective in our service for Christ, but Paul reminds the Corinthians that

Scripture frames separation from sin unto God as an act of dedication (Nu. 33:50-56; Mt. 16:6, 11; Jn. 17:14-17).

Someone has said, "It is not the ship in the water but the water in the ship that sinks it." The believer must be in the world, but we must be careful not to become like the world. In light of the difficulty the world has in distinguishing us from it, that comes as quite a personal indictment.

**The promise of God's blessing (6:17-7:1).** God's blessing and continued presence is a conditional promise. It always has been. His decision to bless us is contingent upon our faithful followship.

Paul calls us to be "perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (7:1), which is a constant process of growing in grace and knowledge (II Peter 3:18) to reach its final culmination in our glorification (Phil. 3:12).

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.



# Colo. tragedy renews youth outreach efforts

BOULDER, Colo. (BP) — As the summer break for high school students kicks into high gear, veteran youth minister Tom Coffan is planning an intensified teen outreach at East Boulder (Colo.) Baptist Church.

In the past, the youth group sponsored "Tuesday Night Thing," an activity-based meeting that led to Scripture discussions. Coffan doesn't want to repeat events that may primarily reach those from a church background.

Among the plans he reviewed with two college-age interns was a street hockey tournament, which would appeal to a wider audience.

That is one lesson that emerged from the April 20 tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, he said.

"What Columbine did was underscore our need to reach disenfranchised students," said Coffan, who has been in youth ministry more than 30 years. "I want to reach the kids on the fringe, along with the rest of them."

The pastor and his interns spent two days escorting youth culture expert Walt Mueller, director of the

Center for Parent/Youth Understanding in Elizabethtown, Pa., around the metropolitan Denver area. Mueller met with pastors and led two meetings for parents, teachers, and youth workers.

Coffan said Mueller's seminars have already had an impact. Talks are under way about asking Mueller to return for an extended seminar.

His church also plans to form a parental support group, with Mueller's materials used for discussion.

At Ken Caryl Church, located about a mile from the Columbine High School campus, interim pastor Rob Norris expects Mueller's visit to have a "huge" impact.

"As a parent, I struggle with what my kids are interested in and what they're being influenced by media-wise," said Norris, also the director of missions for the Denver Association of Southern Baptist Churches.

"I want to be able to relate to them the best I can. The more we understand the better off we'll be," he said.

Ken Caryl has learned to be diligent in its follow-up, since

everyone deals with tragedy at their own pace, Norris said.

The job at Ken Caryl includes interacting with 13 Columbine students.

"The main thing we're advising the church to do is to stay in contact," Norris said.

"For kids at Columbine and Ken Caryl, our youth pastor has his thumb on what kids are most at risk. We're staying in touch with them and their families, making an effort to call them regularly."

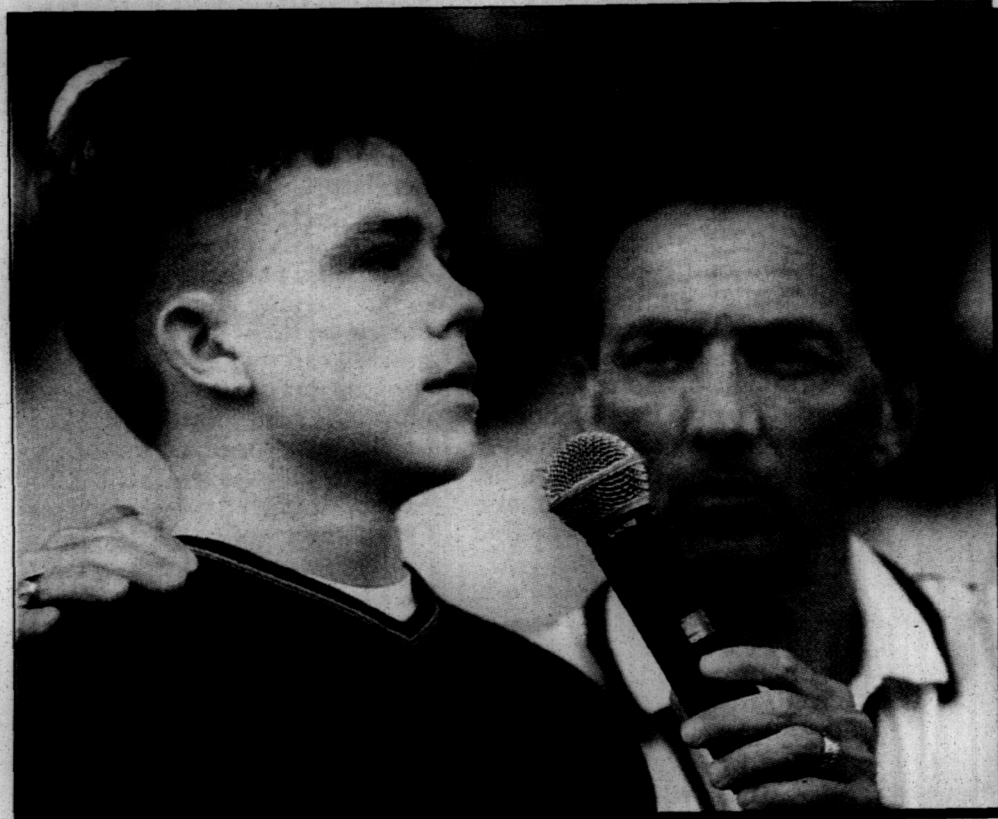
"It's made our people a lot more aware of young people," Norris said of the multiple bombings and shootings that shook the school April 20.

In the past, those who didn't know any teens didn't think much about them, he said.

About a month after the tragedy, an adult Sunday School class served the youth group juice and doughnuts and gave them a monetary gift for their program.

"Those kinds of things are happening a lot," Norris said.

"I've seen a lot more adults talking to youth in the halls, giving them a hug and saying, 'We love you. We care about you,'" he pointed out.



**RECALLING TRAGEDY** — Craig Scott (left) of Littleton, Colo., whose sister Rachel was one of 12 teens killed in the Columbine High School shooting, stands with Jerry Drace of Humboldt, Tenn., president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, to talk about his sister's testimony and death. Scott spoke before a crowd of thousands of teens and adults who attended the Gettin' Free Youth Concert in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park June 12. (BP photo by Jim Yates)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1999

HZXVAF ND XYCFQ YCF  
ND SZZJ, JXYJ PJ PQ P  
NDQZAS: XYCFAZ NZ, YCF  
QZZ; SVG Y QOPGPJ XYJX  
CVJ SAZQX YCF HVCZQ,  
YQ DZ QZZ NZ XYBZ.

AKMZ JTZCJD-SVKG:

JXPGJD-CPCZ

Clue: S = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letters substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Four: Eight.

## Expert lists factors to note in teens' cries for help

LITTLETON, Colo. (BP) — A youth culture expert who visited Littleton, Colo., after the Columbine High School tragedy said adults need to recognize much teenager behavior stems from cries for help.

"The attitudes and behaviors we see aren't aimed at adults," said Walt Mueller, founder of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding, based in Elizabethtown, Pa. "They are cries for attention, affection, love, understanding, relationship, and truth."

A crucial mistake many Christians make is to "demonize" music, movies, video games, and other things attractive to teens, Mueller said. When that happens, people become critical and aren't motivated to help, he said.

In Colorado, Mueller listed four primary factors he sees as cries for help and practical steps adults can take:

◆ Changing families. Many young people's lives are marred by brokenness and divorce, he said.

He challenged fathers to examine their schedules, adjust them to make time for their children and show an interest in their activities and lives.

He also encouraged couples to evaluate the health of their marriage and pay attention to each other before "it's too late."

◆ Music and media. This is the most powerful force filling the void left by those who fail to be diligent parents, Mueller said.

In reality, the youthful attraction to these influences is a search for meaning and direction, he said. Teens are seeking to answer questions about personal identity, God, and the future.

This is why parents must give their children time and listen carefully, he said. "If we're not there to understand and direct them to truthful answers, they will seek them from music and media."

Teens' two major complaints are parents don't listen and don't understand, said Mueller, the father of four children ages 6 to 15. They interpret that as rejection, which becomes resentment and then

rebellion, he said.

◆ A crisis of character, expressed through moral relativism. Many act as if there are no standards of right and wrong or acceptable behavior, Mueller said. But that is really a cry for a sense of truth, he said.

Parents need to grasp the importance of demonstrating truth through their daily relationships, he said.

"They shouldn't just tell them right and wrong, but live it out for them. The best approach is to live by biblical standards of right and wrong."

◆ The cry of hopelessness. While this may sound foreboding, it's actually good news because children aren't finding the answers to problems from non-Christian sources, Mueller said.

Yet, if parents and others in the church don't deliberately and aggressively reach out to kids, they won't have the answers, he said.

"Fear and insecurity has a lot to do with it," he said of the actions of Columbine killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. "It's a combination of a lot of things. It's not gun control, media, or music. It's all of these."

"I was saddened but not the least bit surprised," Mueller said of the attack that shocked the nation. "It's only a matter of time before it happens again."

Among factors he cited as creating a tough world for young people:

◆ Daily, some 3,000 children see their parents' marriage end in divorce.

◆ Tonight, 40% of the children will go to bed in a home without a father.

◆ Pressures, challenges, and

choices not known by previous generations. For example, by the time they graduate, 80% of boys and 70% of girls will have had sexual intercourse.

The Internet website for the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding is [www.cpyu.org](http://www.cpyu.org).



**REMEMBERING** — As the sun sets over Atlanta, 13 crosses commemorating the lives of the Columbine High School teens and a teacher killed by fellow students in Littleton, Colo., are held up at the Gettin' Free Youth Concert June 12 in Centennial Olympic Park, sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. (BP photo by Jim Yates.)